a' cont.

ID NO:4) (bovine β-casein, Schindler, C., Kashleva, H., Pernis, A., Pine, R. and Rothman, P (1994) EMBO J. 13, 1350-1356). –

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22, with the following written paragraph:

-- The particular endothelial cells are transfected with a reporter plasmid, pGL2-basic luciferase vector (Promega) containing an insert of an oligonucleotide corresponding to a four fold tandem repeat of the STAT response element, ATTTCCCGTAAAT (SEQ ID NO:2), upstream of the minimal promoter for herpes simplex thymidine kinase (-35 to +10) using standard methodology for example the calcium phosphate method (Graham and Van Der Eb, Virology, 1973, **52**, 456). To correct for differences in transfection efficiency, the cells can be co-transfected with a reference plasmid expressing β-galactosidase activity. After a period of transfection (12-24 hours) the cells are treated with varying concentrations of compound or ob-protein alone as a positive control and then harvested and lysed. The lysates are assayed for luciferase, and if appropriate β-galactosidase, activity. Antagonist activity can be assayed by pre- or co-addition of an appropriate concentration of ob-protein to the compound under evaluation and measuring the reduction in luciferase response relative to that of ob-protein alone. Standard methods exist for assaying luciferase enzyme activity for example Ow et al., *Science*, 1986, **234**, 856 and de Wet et al., *Mol. Cell Biol.*, 1987, **7**, 725. as well as several commercial kits. --

a2

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 10 and 11 as follows:

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the response element is TTCCCGGAA (SEQ ID NO:5).

a3

11. (Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein the response element is selected from: ATTTCCCCGAAAT (SEQ ID NO:1), ATTTCCCGTAAAT (SEQ ID NO:2), ACTTCTTGGAATT (SEQ ID NO:3) and ACTTCTAGGAATT (SEQ ID NO:4).

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/GB99/04326 into the U.S. national phase of prosecution in order to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.